

REPORT
TO THE
SANITARY AUTHORITIES
OF THE
East Kent Joint Committee

FOR THE YEAR 1895,

BY
M. K. ROBINSON, M.D.,

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Canterbury :

“KENTISH GAZETTE AND CANTERBURY PRESS” OFFICE.

1896.

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REPORT

TO THE

SANITARY AUTHORITIES

OF THE

East Kent Joint Committee

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Area of Combined Districts	..	..	300,708 acres.
Population (Census 1891)	..	..	.. 127,984.

During the year 1895 the total number of births registered in the Combined Districts was 3,342, the deaths during the same period being 2,165. Upon an estimated population of 132,213, the birth-rate was equal to 25·2, and the death-rate, after correction for the Workhouses, Chartham Ayslum, and the Thanet Joint Hospital, to 14·9 per 1000.

Birth-rate.
Death-rate.

The chief zymotic diseases caused 193 deaths, 79 of which were due to diarrhoea, 40 to whooping cough, 36 to diphtheria, 18 to measles, 13 to enteric fever, 3 to puerperal fever, 2 to small-pox, 1 to scarlet fever, and 1 to typhus ; the corrected death-rate from these diseases being equal to 1·47 per 1000 of the population.

Deaths from
the chief
Zymotics.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The general death-rates of the different Districts ranged from 11·8 in Bridge, to 17·6 in Dover Borough ; and the zymotic death-rates from 0·90 in Hythe Borough, to 2·83 in the Dover Rural District.

Death-rates of
the different
Districts.

Under the Notification Act, 617 cases of infectious sickness were reported, of which 227 were referred to scarlet fever, 203 to diphtheria, 76 to erysipelas, 68 to enteric fever, 30 to small-pox, 5 to membranous croup, 5 to puerperal fever, 2 to continued fever, and 1 to typhus.

Notification Act

Scarlet fever was the most frequently notified, but it is gratifying to note a progressive benignity in the type of this once malignant malady ; of the 227 cases reported last year only one proved fatal. This disease, perhaps more than any other, has for

Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria.

a long period been recognized by the public as one essentially requiring isolation, and hence there has been less difficulty in obtaining removal to hospital, where necessary ; or, in the event of home treatment, those safe-guards against its spread have been to a great extent willingly adopted. Diphtheria, on the other hand, continues to exhibit a malignant disposition, 17·7 per cent. of the cases notified proving fatal.

Bacteriological
Examinations.

The continued observation of epidemics of this disease, occurring under diverse circumstances in Rural Districts, tend to confirm certain conclusions already arrived at, especially including the influence of school assemblies in favouring the diffusion of the disease. Other causes which have been found to militate against the eradication of the disease from an infected locality, are the protracted infectiveness individual sufferers exhibit, and the vitality the germs possess outside the human host. Again, the obscurity of the symptoms presented in many cases often renders it impossible to recognise the nature of an attack without the aid of bacteriology. This subject was brought before the Conjoint Committee at their last meeting, and, after discussion, it was resolved to recommend the several Authorities to subscribe to an association which undertakes on liberal terms the bacterioscopic examination of specimens sent for examination. All but three of the Councils in the East Kent Combination have agreed to subscribe, and thus aid in the elucidation of a difficult and fatal disease, and also supply a mode of determining when a convalescent may be pronounced safe from imparting the malady. The only objection raised was that such procedure would be a reflection on the skill of medical men, the objectors forgetting that the profession of medicine welcomes every aid to diagnosis, but at the same time recognises the impossibility of every doctor in practice being able to establish a bacteriological laboratory.

Small-pox.

The East Kent Conjoint District was last year invaded by small-pox at four different points, viz., (1) In the Dover Borough by a tramp, who was promptly isolated, with the result that no further extension of this loathsome disease occurred. (2) In the Bridge District, where there were seventeen cases. (3) In the East Ashford District, where there were seven cases. (4) In the Elham District, where five cases occurred.

In the Bridge and East Ashford Districts the disease was introduced from Canterbury by persons who were at first thought to be suffering from chicken-pox ; and in the Elham District by a person the nature of whose illness was also not recognised. It is satisfactory to note that when the true nature of the disease became apparent the energetic measures adopted proved successful in preventing any serious epidemic in East Kent.

Influenza.

Influenza still robs us of health and life, having insidiously established a home amongst us ever since its introduction into this country, and the epidemic outburst in 1889-90.

Seventy-eight deaths were recorded as directly due to this disease, and it is impossible to estimate its indirect consequences in developing serious sequelæ, and the mortality registered under pulmonary, brain, and other complications. The sooner this malady is recognised by the public as distinctly infectious, and spread by that property which it possesses, the better will it be for the health and life of the nation, if such recognition is followed by the adoption of measures applicable to other diseases of this class.

Hospital provision has advanced during the year. A spacious and well appointed building, adapted either for observation or convalescent purposes, has been erected in the Dover Borough District by the private benevolence of the Honorary Physician; and new Hospitals have been erected in the Bridge and Elham Districts; so that two Districts now alone remain without Hospitals, viz., Eastry and Hythe, within the Joint Combination.

Hospitals.

The usual inquiries into the various outbreaks of disease were conducted during the year. Reports to the several Authorities were made respecting the most important of them, and such measures adopted as were found practicable of application.

Measures
adopted in out-
breaks of
Disease.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 53 houses in the Conjoint District were reported upon as unfit for human habitation.

Housing of the
Working
Classes Act.

During the year 130 samples of water were analysed, 47 of which were found so polluted as to be unfit for use, and 28 came under the category of suspicious waters.

WaterAnalyses.

The statistics appended to this report, and furnished in accordance with the order of the Local Government Board, demonstrate that the preventative measures adopted during the year have neither proved barren nor unsuccessful.

Statistics.

Death-rate per 1,000 from all causes, and from several Zymotic Diseases during the Year 1895.

	All Causes.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.
England and Wales	18·7	2·12	0·00	0·36	0·14	0·25	0·30	0·17	0·88
33 Great Towns	20·6	2·83	0·01	0·53	0·43	0·35	0·36	0·20	1·19
67 other Large Towns	18·8	2·41	0·00	0·37	0·15	0·23	0·31	0·21	1·12
England and Wales, less the 100 Towns	17·4	1·61	0·00	0·25	0·12	0·19	0·25	0·15	0·63
East Kent Combined District	14·9	1·47	0·01	0·13	0·00	0·28	0·30	0·13	0·59

SANITARY DISTRICT.	Estimated Population to middle of 1895.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Average Death-rate for the 10 years 1885-94.	Deaths from the Chief Zymotics, 1895.										Death-rate from Chief Zymotics, 1895.	Average Zymotic Death-rate for the 10 years, 1885-94.		
							Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Fevers.						Measles.			Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.
										Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.						
Blean	7,145	196	115	27·4	13·9*	15·4*	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	9	1·67	1·43
Bridge	11,635	273	221	23·4	11·8†	15·3†	..	..	4	1	..	..	1	4	..	6	1·71	1·38
Broadstairs	5,598	105	85	18·7	14·4*	15·8*	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1·07	1·07
Dover Borough...	34,518	927	629	26·8	17·6*†	16·9*†	1	..	13	2	..	..	..	..	16	36	1·65†	1·41†
Dover Rural	7,410	183	79	24·6	13·4*†	14·8*†	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	5	2·83†	1·14†
East Ashford	14,042	371	192	26·4	13·6	14·1	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	9	3	1·35	1·23
Eastry	12,924	330	203	25·5	13·9*	15·2*	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	6	2	2	0·92	1·08
Elham... ..	11,874	325	183	27·3	13·6*	14·4*	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	2	2	5	1·26	0·95
Herne Bay... ..	4,513	87	62	19·2	14·6*	15·0*	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	1·77	1·31
Hythe... ..	4,419	110	62	24·8	14·7*	12·9*	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	0·90	0·78
Thanet	9,970	230	204	23·0	12·1*†	14·8*†	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	4	..	2	1·10†	1·26†
West Ashford	8,165	205	130	25·1	14·5*	14·3*	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	1·22	1·25
TOTAL	132,213	3,342	2,165	25·2	14·9*†	15·4*†	2	1	36	1	13	..	3	18	40	79	1·47†	1·25†		

* Corrected for Workhouse.

+ Corrected for Chatham Asylum.

† Corrected for Isolation Hospital.

BLEAN RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—27,406 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—7,059.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 196, the deaths during the same period being 115. Upon an estimated population of 7,145 the birth-rate was equal to 27·4, and the corrected death-rate to 13·9 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth-rate.

Death-rate.

Causes of
Death.

Of the various causes of death, 20, including 11 from phthisis, were due to diseases of the lungs, 17 to heart disease, 10 to influenza, nine to diarrhoea, two to whooping cough, one to measles, one to injuries, and 55 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·67 per 1,000 of the population ; but that from notifiable diseases was *nil*.

Age at Death.

Of the total number of deaths 19 occurred at under one year of age, seven at one and under five, seven at 15 and under 25, 30 at 25 and under 65, and 52 at 65 years and upwards.

Infant
Mortality.

Infant mortality was equal to 9·6 per cent of the number of children born during the year.

Notification
Act.

Under the Notification Act 17 cases of infectious sickness were reported, six of which were referred to diphtheria, four to erysipelas, four to enteric fever, and three to scarlet fever.

Diphtheria.

With regard to the six cases of diphtheria, they were examples of distinct outbreaks in widely separated localities.

In one instance there was no history of exposure to any other case of the disease in the neighbourhood, neither were there any insanitary conditions on the premises. The sufferer had, however, been by an excursion train to London three days prior to the attack, so it is possible that the disease was contracted during this excursion.

In another case there was no evidence of local origin, the only probable source being a school which the patient had been attending in a neighbouring town.

The third case occurred in a family in which, some time previously, there had been an outbreak of this disease, and where

the insanitary conditions existing on the premises occupied by them were such as would be likely to favour the protracted life of the bacilli outside the human host.

In the fourth instance the child had been playing for several days prior to attack in close vicinity to a cesspool, which received the contents of the drainage from the dwelling and from a slaughter-house.

In the fifth outbreak there had been previous cases of sore throat in the family that had recently taken possession of the adjoining house, the premises of which were found to be in a very insanitary condition.

In the sixth case the premises occupied by the sufferer were also found to be in a very insanitary state.

All the above-mentioned patients were promptly removed to the Hospital, and no further extension of the disease occurred in the localities affected.

The three cases of scarlet fever occurred in localities widely separated from each other. In one instance the patient contracted the disease at a school in a neighbouring town; the second case occurred in a house where a servant had previously suffered from a sore throat of a suspicious character; whilst in the third instance no exposure to any other case of the disease could be traced, but the contents of a cesspool previously infected had been emptied on to a garden adjoining the house, and was suspected to be the cause of the outbreak. **Scarlet Fever.**

One of the patients was removed to the Hospital, but the other two were treated at their homes, where ample opportunities existed for their effectual isolation.

Of the four cases of enteric fever, one sufferer was a sailor sent home ill from North Shields, and the remaining three were sent into the Workhouse with what was believed at the time to be influenza. **Enteric Fever.**

Of the four cases of erysipelas, two were instances of a very common mode of origin, viz., the scratching of a pimple on the nose with a finger nail, probably fouled by contact with septic matter. Such examples serve as object lessons in teaching the necessity of preserving cleanliness in those most frequently used parts of the body, viz., the hands. **Erysipelas.**

An epidemic of diarrhoea, which assumed a fatal and infectious character at the Workhouse, was investigated in conjunction with the doctor of that institution, and a report prepared and furnished to the Guardians on the subject. Suffice it to say that serious defects in drainage were found to exist, and that as the outbreak evidently exhibited an infectious character, isolation was at once adopted, and a special nurse employed, with the result that further extension of the disease was arrested. **Diarrhoea.**

Insanitary conditions when met with during the investigations into the various outbreaks of disease were, as far as possible, **Reports made to the Council.**

promptly dealt with, reports (when necessary) being made to the Council.

**Insanitary
Premises.**

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act one house was reported unfit for human habitation.

The attention of the Council was also directed to the dampness of many houses in the district, owing to the want of rain water gutters and down spouts, instances at Sturry being referred to as examples of such defects.

Reports were also made respecting insanitary conditions at the Post Office and adjoining bakehouse at Upstreet, and at other property in this locality ; and considerable improvement has resulted from the subsequent action of the Council.

Water Supply.

Eleven samples of water were analysed during the year, seven of which were found so contaminated as to be unfit for drinking purposes.

Twelve cottages previously deriving their supply of water from contaminated wells, now obtain it from the Herne Company's Works, a water main having been extended for this purpose.

**Sewage
Disposal.**

The establishment of public scavenging at Sturry has now enabled the Authority to deal with the whole of this village on the earth closet system.

Pending the construction of any sewerage system for the village of Herne, the Sturry method has been advocated as worthy of adoption.

Hospital.

In consequence of the arrangement made for receiving patients from Herne Bay and Whitstable in the Blean Hospital, the Council has been advised to take into consideration the construction of the additional ward, as shown in the original plans, so that there may be provision for the treatment of the two sexes, or of different diseases, at the same time, or for an observation or convalescent ward.

**Inspector's
Report.**

From the Inspector's report it appears that, in addition to the supervision of plans for new buildings, the cow sheds, dairies, bakehouses and slaughter houses have been regularly visited ; that 85 complaints were made to the Council, 65 notices served, and 80 nuisances abated during the year.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **BLEAN** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.									MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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										At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Herne	...	35	7	3		3	10	12	Under 5. 5 upwds.</

'Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **BLEAN** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous	Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous	Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Herne (H)	...	2,763	...	84	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	1	1

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. Blean Isolation Hospital at Herne.

BRIDGE

RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—41,805 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—11,544.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 273, the deaths during the same period being 221. Upon an estimated population of 11,635, the birth-rate was equal to 23·4, and the death-rate, after correction for the Asylum, to 11·8 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth-rate.
Death-rate.

Of the various causes of death 53 were due to diseases of the lungs (including 14 from consumption), 24 to heart disease, 13 to influenza, six to diarrhoea, four to diphtheria, four to measles, three to enteric fever, three to injuries, one each to small-pox, typhus, puerperal fever, and rheumatic fever, and 107 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

Causes of
Death.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·71 per 1,000 of the population; and that from notifiable diseases to 0·85.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

Of the total number of deaths 24 occurred at under one year of age, 15 at one and under five years, eight at five and under 15 years, 10 at 15 and under 25 years, 77 at 25 and under 65, and 87 at 65 years and upwards.

Ages at Death.

Infant mortality was equal to 8·7 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Infant
Mortality.

Under the Notification Act 49 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 17 of which were referred to small-pox, 12 to diphtheria, 10 to scarlet fever, four to enteric fever, four to erysipelas, one to typhus, and one to puerperal fever.

Notification
Act.

The commencement of the year was signalized by a serious outbreak of small-pox.

Small-pox.

Of the 17 cases notified 14 occurred in or around the village of Petham.

The disease was, apparently, introduced by a man who, after a visit to Canterbury, suffered from a mild and unrecognised attack of the malady. A nurse, who was attending at his house, then became infected, but the complaint was so mild in character that she also did not realise the nature of her illness, and so infected a patient she was nursing, and also her mother and brother living in a village near Folkestone. The disease was then introduced into three other families, owing to visits paid to the house of the first-mentioned sufferer, and subsequently spread to five other families.

A case of the disease occurred also at Harbledown, at Lower Hardres, and at Thanington. In one instance the sufferer had been nursing her daughter at Canterbury through an attack of this complaint; and the two other sufferers had been in the habit of visiting this City whilst the disease was rife.

With regard to the measures adopted for the prevention of the spread of infection, the Isolation Hospital, in course of construction, was not sufficiently completed to admit of the reception of patients, but by the isolation of the sufferers and their families and the provision of trained nurses, the outbreak was, after considerable cost, stamped out. Of the 17 persons attacked all except one, a woman aged 83, recovered.

Diphtheria.

Of the 12 cases of diphtheria eight occurred in one village. The notification of the first case was preceded by numerous instances of sore throat of a suspicious character amongst the children of this locality. A fatal case of the disease occurred in another village in a family occupying a hop hut during the hop-picking season.

Scarlet Fever.

With regard to scarlet fever, two of the sufferers arrived in the District whilst suffering from the complaint, and two arrived three days before failing.

In another family two cases occurred after the visit of a child from a neighbouring town.

Enteric Fever.

Of the four cases of enteric fever two were evidently imported, and the remaining two occurred on premises where insanitary conditions existed.

Typhus.

An obscure case of typhus was notified also during the year. The patient had been away from home harvesting, and, after a fortnight's absence came home ill.

Reports made to the Council.

In addition to dealing with the insanitary conditions met with during investigations into the various outbreaks of disease, reports were made to the Council on the 19 houses known as The Mint, Harbledown, on property at Bridge, Littlebourne, Harbledown, and Adisham.

A special report was also made on the water supply and method of excrement disposal at the village of Littlebourne.

Overcrowded Houses.

Two over-crowded houses, one at Derringstone, the other at Fordwich, were also brought to the notice of the Council.

Water Analyses.

Eight samples of water were analysed during the year, two of which were found so polluted as to be unfit for use.

Isolation Hospital.

The new Isolation Hospital near Bekesbourne has now been completed and used for the reception of patients. It stands in a central but well isolated position, and contains, in addition to the wards for patients, accommodation for caretaker and nurse ; and the building has been so designed that extra accommodation may, if necessary, be added in the future.

Scavenging.

Provision has now been made by the District Council for the scavenging of Littlebourne and part of Bridge, and by the Parish Council for the scavenging of Chartham.

Inspector's Report.

From the Inspector's report it appears that 37 complaints have been made during the year, 29 nuisances abated, and 27 houses disinfected. In addition the bakehouses, slaughterhouses, and cowsheds have been regularly visited, and found in good condition.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **BRIDGE** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(i)	FEVERS.																	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.						
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.			Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.			
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Barham	80	13	8	4	2	20	33	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2	3	1	...	5	...	...	...	11	21
Workhouse	15	...	...	...	...	5	10	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	59
Chartham	41	11	7	4	2	6	11	Under 5. 5 upwds.	2	2	...	1	3	3	2	...	1	10	8	15	
Chartham Asylum	85	...	...	...	6	46	33	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	23
								Under 5. 5 upwds.	85
								Under 5. 5 upwds.
TOTALS	221	24	15	8	10	77	87	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	3	...	...	8	1	...	1	21	39
									...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	31	23	...	2	86	182

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **BRIDGE** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.											
					FEVERS.													FEVERS.											
					Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Barham (H)	164	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chartham	109	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chartham Asylum	951	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	11,635	273	Under 5 5 upwds.	16	1	2	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. Bridge Isolation Hospital at Barham.

BROADSTAIRS

URBAN COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—1,442 Acres.

Population (Census 1891)—5,234.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the Urban District of Broadstairs and St. Peter's was 105, the deaths during the same period being 85. Upon an estimated population of 5,598, the birth-rate was equal to 18·7, and the corrected death-rate to 14·4 per 1,000.

Birth-rate.
Death-rate.
Causes of
Death.

Of the various causes of death, 17, including seven from consumption, were referred to diseases of the lungs, nine to heart disease, three to injuries, two to enteric fever, two to whooping cough, two to influenza, one to diphtheria, one to diarrhoea, and 48 to old age and various other causes.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·07 per 1,000 of the population; that from notifiable diseases being 0·53.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

Of the total number of deaths 18 occurred at under one year of age, four at one and under five years, five at five and under 15, eight at 15 and under 25, 17 at 25 and under 65, and 33 at 65 years and upwards.

Ages at Death.

Infant mortality was equal to 17·1 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Infant
Mortality.

Under the Notification Act 27 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 15 of which were referred to scarlet fever, six to diphtheria, four to enteric fever, and two to erysipelas.

Notification
Act.

In respect to scarlet fever, the disease most frequently notified, eight of the cases occurred at convalescent homes. Convalescents from scarlet fever often retain the power of imparting infection for a long period, and thus, notwithstanding the measures adopted to avoid its introduction into these charitable institutions, this result is a very frequent occurrence. Another case was that of a child whose mother was engaged during the night nursing a scarlet fever patient at one of the homes. Two others were visitors in private lodgings. The other cases occurred under circumstances of defective sanitation, and therefore might have had a local origin.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases of diphtheria were scattered outbreaks; two were visitors recently arrived; one occurred at a laundress's, where the linen of convalescent visitors had been washed; whilst in the other instances there was no history except of exposure to insanitary

Diphtheria.

conditions such as are frequently observed in outbreaks of this disease.

Enteric Fever. In one of the three cases of enteric fever the insanitary conditions were very marked, and included an imperfectly covered cesspool in the basement of the house.

Removals to Hospital. Nineteen of the cases notified were removed to the Hospital, and to the prompt isolation thus effected may be attributed the prevention of any epidemic prevalence of notifiable diseases in the district.

Action taken during the year. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, two dwellings were reported upon as unfit for human habitation; and, in addition to the action taken as a result of the investigations into outbreaks of sickness, report was made on various insanitary conditions met with at St. Peter's; and, in view of the interminable delay in completing the sewerage system in this part of the District, it was urged that palliative measures should be adopted for dealing with the most gross defects in sanitation. Many of these have been dealt with by the Council, but effectual and permanent relief against recurrent accumulations of filth will only be afforded when the sewerage system has been extended to this neighbourhood.

The desirability of fully utilizing the already completed system in the Broadstairs division was illustrated by defects found in dairy and other premises, and so reported to the Authority, but there are still some twenty houses or more which require to be connected with the main sewer in order to remove existing evils on premises improperly drained.

Public Water Supply. Although, since my recommendation to cover over the reservoirs of the two wells supplying the district was carried out, no evidence of the contamination of the wells has been adduced, an animated discussion has been carried on as to the purity of the Broadstairs Water Supply, with the satisfactory result of establishing on reliable authority the purity and perfect wholesomeness of the water in question, and its suitability for a public supply. The amount already capable of distribution is to be further supplemented by the acquisition of a third well, the use of which formed the subject of contention when the present company was seeking Parliamentary power in the Session of 1874.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **BROADSTAIRS** Urban Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
										Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Broadstairs	...	52	8	1	4	5	12	22	Under 5. 5 upwds.	2</

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **BROADSTAIRS** Urban Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
	(a)	(b)				(c)	(d)	(e)	FEVERS.						FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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Broadstairs	...	2,933	...	46	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2</

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1890. Thanet Joint Hospital in Ramsgate Borough.

DOVER BOROUGH.

Area—1256 Acres.

Population—(1891 Census) 33,300.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the Borough of Dover was 927, the deaths during the same period being 629.

Upon an estimated population of 34,518, the birth-rate was equal to 26·8, and the corrected death-rate 17·6 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth-rate.

Death-rate.

Of the various causes of death 145, including 45 from consumption, were referred to diseases of the lungs, 47 heart disease, 36 diarrhoea, 25 injuries, 17 influenza, 16 whooping cough, 13 diphtheria, 3 rheumatic fever, 2 enteric fever, 1 scarlet fever, 1 erysipelas, and 323 to old age and various other constitutional causes. Eleven of the thirteen deaths from diphtheria registered within the Borough were rural subjects sent in to the Urban Hospital for treatment and isolation.

Causes of Death.

The corrected death-rate for the chief zymotics was 1·65 per 1,000 of the population; that from notifiable zymotics being 0·17, the latter being the exact proportion of the previous year.

Zymotic Death-rate.

The ages at which the different deaths occurred were as follows:—163 died at under 1 year of age, 49 at 1 and under 5, 34 at 5 and under 15, 29 at 15 and under 25, 182 at 25 and under 65, and 172 at 65 years and upwards.

Ages at Death.

Infant mortality was equal to 17·5 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Infant Mortality.

Under the Notification Act 88 cases of sickness were reported, 42 of which were referred to scarlet fever, 24 erysipelas, 13 enteric fever, 7 diphtheria, 1 small-pox, and 1 membranous croup.

Notification Act.

Scarlet fever, the most frequently notified disease, was of a mild type and hardly to be distinguished in many cases from that form of influenza which is accompanied by rash. Although scattered throughout the Borough and several times introduced from without it never assumed any serious epidemic form. Isolation in the hospital being adopted in 33 of the cases, any serious extension from the different outbreaks was thus averted.

Scarlet Fever.

The first case of diphtheria was an imported one, and considering the prevalence of the disease in the Rural District it is fortunate that only seven cases occurred in the Borough during the year.

Diphtheria.

Enteric Fever. One of the sufferers from enteric fever was a nurse who had been attending a case of the same disease ; and another sufferer returned home ill after a visit to an infected house at a distance.

Diarrhoea. Diarrhoea was fatally prevalent in the third quarter of the year, the death-rate from the disease during that period being equal to 2·5 per 1,000 of the population per annum. Throughout England and Wales the fatality from diarrhoea was much above the average. Coincident with this result the temperature was also exalted, an atmospheric condition always noticed to be favourable to the development of the causes of this disease. The victims of the malady were all, except two, children under 5 years of age. High temperature favours rapid decomposition of organic matter, and those changes in food productive of poisonous substances.

Preservatives in food causing illness. With a view of conserving milk chemical preservatives are often added ; such agents, however, may in large doses act as poisons. An illustration of this occurred in Dover last year.

Case in point. At the latter end of September I was requested to investigate a sudden and serious outbreak of illness in a religious house containing 5 sisters, with cook and housemaid. Although no fatal results accrued, the symptoms were severe, including especially colic and protracted vomiting, with suppression of urine, and great prostration involving protracted convalescence. Five out of the seven inmates were attacked within a short period of each other, thus indicating some common origin as the source of the mischief. The five who suffered had partaken of a certain food supply, whilst the two who escaped had not participated. Suspicion at the onset was attached to this particular article, viz., the milk supplied to the household. The first two were attacked about five o'clock in the afternoon, the others suffering during the same night and following morning. The implicated milk was taken alone, blended with tea, and in the form of blancmange. To the morning and afternoon supply of the milk partaken of on the day of seizure the cook added a preservative known as glacialene. A sample of the packet from which the glacialene was taken was analysed and found to contain, as its basis, boracic acid. A specimen of the milk as supplied by the dairyman was also analysed and found also to contain boracic acid. Thus for the same purpose a preservative had been added to the milk, both before and after its delivery at the house, by which treatment an over-dose was unintentionally administered. Permission was obtained to give the portion of non-consumed blancmange to nine fowls ; five devoured the food with avidity, and thus secured a larger portion than the remaining four ; the five were vigorous pullets, but all died ; the remaining four, although suffering from loss of appetite and diarrhoea, ultimately recovered. The crop and gizzard of one of the fowls was submitted for analysis, and tyrotoxon, ptomaines, and mineral poisons searched for, but boracic acid alone was found and that in considerable quantity.

Antecedent to the analytical investigations, inquiry had been instituted at the dairy, and no illness at the dairyman's house or amongst the cows had been known to exist.

On the premises where the outbreak occurred the water supply is pure and beyond suspicion, and the sanitary arrangements most satisfactory in character. After elimination of other causes, the evidence pointed to boracic acid as the real factor which gave rise to the illness in the above-mentioned cases. Boracic Acid.

Such results indicate the necessity for precautions being taken when prescribing this drug for medicinal purposes, and also in respect to its use as a food preservative.

In the *British Medical Journal*, of October 12th, 1895, there is an extract from the *Rev. de Medicin*, in which the danger arising from continued and large doses of borax is described by Fèrè, who reports the results of its use in 122 cases of epilepsy for which he had administered the remedy. From this narrative it is evident that the drug cannot be employed for internal use without due precautions against excessive doses. The larger question of sanctioning or deprecating the use of this and other preservatives in our food requires more mature consideration than it has hitherto received, although adulteration with boracic acid is not a new subject. In 1891 the late Sir Andrew Clark, Sir Henry Thompson, and Dr. Lander Brunton were applied to for their opinion on the question, and although their judgment is expressed with some reserve and qualification, much is admitted which cannot be rashly put to one side. Sir Andrew Clark replied, that the chemical compounds used in the preservation of food, although innocuous in small occasional doses, become, even in small doses, continued over long periods, destructive to health; and furthermore he believed that many obscure and incurable disorders are begotten in this manner. Opinions of
Medical Men.

Sir Henry Thompson says "the infant is much more liable to injury by the admixture of boracic acid in milk, on account of being far more susceptible than adults to the influence of all chemical agents."

Dr. Lander Brunton says: "Boric acid is known to be a poison in large doses, and has also been found to be injurious when added to foods."

Notwithstanding such authoritative expressions of opinion more than four years ago, the practice of adding preservatives to food has been tacitly sanctioned, for in the reports of analysts one hears of admixture of water and abstraction of fat, but rarely of the presence of boric acid; because, I presume, this drug is not recognised as an *injurious* adulteration, and therefore it is assumed that no conviction would be obtained if a prosecution were instituted. In the cases referred to larger doses were administered than intended, and serious symptoms followed.

If such results can be produced in the case of adults, it is not Infants' Food.

unreasonable to presume that infants cannot take with impunity long-continued doses in their staple food of milk.

Infant
Mortality.

The high infant mortality last year was due chiefly to diarrrhœa, whooping cough and affections of the lungs.

Influenza.

Influenza accounted for 17 deaths, and diseases of the lungs (exclusive of phthisis) 100. The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were in excess of the average, due in all probability to the mischief-working influenza, which has never been entirely absent since its introduction into this country and epidemic outburst in 1889-90.

Death-rate.

Notwithstanding these exceptional factors in raising the mortality, the general death rate was only a fraction higher than the average of the ten years, 1884-1893.

Corrections for
Public Institu-
tions.

Although the rates have been corrected for the public institutions, it must not be forgotten that owing to the reception of rural cases in the Workhouse and Infectious Hospital, the deaths of persons appear in the registration returns, within, but not belonging to, the Borough.

Action taken
with regard to
Outbreaks of
Disease.

The usual investigations were made into the various outbreaks of disease notified, any insanitary conditions met with on the premises where they occurred were duly rectified, and the patients in a large percentage of cases were segregated at the Infectious Hospital; and, so far as notifiable maladies are concerned, their extension was limited within reasonable bounds, and a great saving of life and sickness effected.

Reports made
to the Council.

Amongst the reports made to the Council during the year, reference was made to the report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis and the lessons to be learnt therefrom, especially in respect to the importance of food supervision, and the advantages to be derived from the establishment of a public abattoir; also to the most important defects met with during the inspection of the District, especially in respect to the container closets, absence of flushing cisterns, inadequate soil-pipe ventilation, and the obsolete and inefficient bell-trap, still retained in many localities.

Building By-
laws.

New building bye-laws formed again the subject of discussion, but their adoption has been postponed in deference to the opposition raised, and the fear entertained of unnecessary interference with new building plans submitted for the approval of the Council.

Inspectors'
Report.

The following is a summary of work carried out by the Inspectors during the year:

Number of complaints received from inhabitants...	...	115
„ „ „ made by Inspector to the Council		35
„ „ instructions given by the Council	... ..	35
„ „ notices issued to abate nuisances	... ..	259
„ „ nuisances abated	... ..	259
„ „ nuisances, not included in the above, arising from defective or obstructed house drainage abated	... ..	369

Number of summonses to appear before Justices issued...	0
„ „ houses and schools disinfected	109
„ „ articles of infected bedding, clothing, etc., removed and returned disinfected... ..	2500
„ „ cases of overcrowding abated, and the dwellings limewashed and cleansed	2
„ „ dwellings cleansed in compliance with notice	12
„ „ sink waste pipes leading directly to drain cut off and made to discharge externally on to trapped drain	42
„ „ unsafe coverings in footway repaired and made safe, by notices served	10
„ „ ships inspected... ..	31
„ „ notices served to remedy insufficient ventilation of forecastles of above ships	7
„ „ notices served to abate other nuisances in above ships... ..	6
„ „ fish seized and condemned as unfit for food...	2146
„ „ samples of food purchased and analysed ...	10
„ „ premises registered under "The Dairies, Cow Sheds, and Milk Shops Order"	4

Workshops and out-workers' homes, registered common lodging-houses, marine stores, home rests, slaughter-houses, dairies, cow-sheds, milk shops, greengrocers, fishmongers, poulterers, and butchers visited periodically.

Wholesale fishmarket visited daily.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **DOVER** Borough Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																										
	(a)	(b)							(i)	(c)																									
		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.				
Hougham	...	166	61	11	12	9	41	32	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11	...	...	...	13	1	1	...	3	44	72		
Workhouse	...	70	2	2	2	2	20	42	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	38	94		
St. James	...	244	56	26	15	9	76	62	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	2	66	
St. Mary	...	149	44	10	5	9	45	36	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	46	82	
									Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	29	162	
									Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	54
									Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
									Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	629	163	49	34	29	182	172	Under 5. 5 upwds.	1	3	10	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	29	7	...	1	35	1	2	4	121	212	417		

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **DOVER** Borough District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Census 1891.	(a)	(b)	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	(c)	(d)	(e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
										Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11										
Hougham	...	11,244	...	380	Under 5 upwds.	...	3	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...						
Workhouse	...	400	...	...	Under 5 upwds.	...	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	10	...	...	...	...	...					
St. James (H)	...	12,805	...	304	Under 5 upwds.	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	10	...	...	2	...	...	...	...						
St. Mary	...	8,851	...	243	Under 5 upwds.	...	16	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	2	...	...	...							
	Under 5 upwds.	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Under 5 upwds.	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Under 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	33,300	34,518	927	Under 5 upwds.	...	7	4	...	...	1	12	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	2	...	...	...							
							1	35								1	28																

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1890. Dover Borough Isolation Hospital.

DOVER RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—27,828 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—7,166.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 183, the deaths during the same period being 79.

Birth-rate. Upon an estimated population of 7,410, the birth-rate was equal to 24·6, and the death-rate (corrected) to 13·4 per 1,000.

Death-rate. Of the various causes of death, 20, including seven from phthisis, were referred to diseases of the lungs, seven heart disease, five diarrhoea, two diphtheria, two whooping cough, two influenza, two injuries, one puerperal fever, and 38 to old age and other constitutional causes.

Causes of Death. The corrected death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 2·83 ; that from notifiable diseases being 1·75.

Zymotic Death-rate. Of the total number of deaths 23 occurred under one year of age, six at one and under five, three at five and under 15, six at 15 and under 25, 18 at 25 and under 65, and 23 at 65 and upwards.

Ages at Death. Infant mortality was equal to 12·5 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Infant Mortality. Under the Notification Act 53 cases of sickness were reported, 41 of which were referred to diphtheria, five scarlet fever, four erysipelas, two enteric fever, and one puerperal fever.

Notification Act. Diphtheria involved most trouble and anxiety, owing to its recurrence in and extension from the localities infected during the previous year, and also from fresh introductions from adjacent districts where it was known to prevail.

Diphtheria. In order to elucidate the origin of the disease at different times and places it will be convenient to group the cases according to the localities in which they occurred.

No cases occurred in the Dover Rural District during the first quarter of the year, although eight cases had been notified in that portion of the Easry District which adjoins Dover Rural.

Between April 2nd and May 10th a group of 10 cases occurred in five families, residing at the hamlets of Poulton, Langdon Abbey Cottages, and West Langdon ; the disease being contracted in the first instance from relatives living in the Easry

District. There were no special or common insanitary conditions to which the sufferers had been previously exposed, and there was no evidence that either milk or water had acted as a vehicle in the diffusion of the malady. There was, however, one agent common to all, viz., meeting at school, which was the active factor in causing it to spread beyond the families invaded in the first instance. School closure, and isolation of those attacked, proved successful in staying further progress in this locality.

The second group consisted of eight cases at St. Margaret's, the individual outbreaks extending from June 6th to December 29th.

The first sufferer, who was attending the elementary school, had been in contact on Bank Holiday with a visitor, three days prior to attack. The other cases occurred in families attending the same school, from which the infection was apparently derived, except in one instance, where it might have been contracted from visiting an infected house.

The following circumstances were noticed in connection with this group :—

Insanitary conditions occasioning escape of cesspool effluvia into one house were discovered.

In a second instance the water supply was derived from a rain-water tank, which on analysis was found polluted. At another house the closet on the premises had become foul from neglect. In none of the outbreaks was there any evidence of milk having acted as a source of the disease. Omitting multiple cases in the same families, one common factor alone could be discovered, viz., school influence, the school being infected by infected scholars mentioned in the first group.

The next group was composed of seven cases at Whitfield, two occurring on September 5th, and the remaining five between December 11th and 15th.

The first two cases occurred after attending a school treat, where a number of children assembled from the surrounding parishes. At the house where these cases occurred, nuisances occasioned by improper disposal of excrement existed on the premises, and the water supply was also contaminated. The five remaining cases in this batch occurred in three houses situated apart from each other. All had attended a crowded service of song, where it was alleged that infected persons from adjoining parishes were also present.

From the fact that the sufferers were all taken ill within a short period of each other, and no other common cause could be found likely to account for such simultaneous attacks, it is not unreasonable to view the exposure to infected persons, under the crowded conditions referred to, as the most probable source of this outbreak.

At Coldred, where another group of three cases occurred, the sufferers were scholars attending the Waldershare school, where infected children from the Eastry District had been in attendance.

Beyond an improperly-arranged sink waste-pipe, there was no cause in respect to sewage disposal, milk, or water supply, suggestive, even, of any local origin.

The fifth group occurred at Ringwould, and consisted of six cases. All the sufferers, with the exception of the mother of one, were children attending the parish school, the infection of which was due, apparently, to importation from Walmer. From the circumstances ascertained in respect to the water, food supplies, and sanitary arrangements at the respective houses where the sufferers resided, there was no reason to suspect local origin. And the only common factor remaining that was sufficient to account for this group was school infection, and spread therefrom.

Having dealt with these five groups, seven instances of the disease alone remain, viz. : three cases which occurred in a family related to an infected family of one of the groups previously mentioned ; two in a house adjoining premises where a previous case had existed ; and the remaining two in another family, the first to suffer being a scholar at the Waldershare school. In none of these last-mentioned instances were there any local circumstances to account for their origin.

From the above description it will be seen that whilst there existed in some instances insanitary defects on the premises invaded by the disease, the main source of multiple cases in any locality was due to infection from previous cases contracted during school attendance, or from relatives.

Scarlet Fever. With regard to the five cases of scarlet fever there were no noteworthy facts to record ; the outbreaks which occurred in widely-separated localities, were mild in character, with no subsequent extension of the disease.

Enteric Fever. In one of the two cases of enteric fever the illness commenced with an attack of influenza, from which all the other inmates of this and of the adjoining dwelling had previously suffered.

Puerperal Fever The single case of puerperal fever, which proved fatal, was that of a woman who commenced with influenza, and whose nurse was also suffering from this malady.

Removal to Hospital. Twenty-eight of the cases of diphtheria were removed to the Borough hospital for isolation and treatment, and two by the Relieving Officer to the infectious hospital at the Workhouse. But for the advantages of isolation in hospital there is every reason for believing that the disease would have spread to a much greater extent, and proved more fatal than it did, great as the mortality was, viz., 31·7 per cent. of the cases.

Eleven died after removal to the Borough hospitals, and were therefore not registered in the Rural District.

Action taken. Disinfection was carried out as soon as practicable after the removal of the patients, and such insanitary conditions as were met with on the premises invaded by the disease promptly dealt with.

During the year reports were made on the discharge of sewage and waste from the paper mill in the parish of River, and on the necessity for some better provision for the disposal of excreta in this extending suburban district of Dover.

Reports

Nine samples of water have been analysed, four of which were found so polluted as to be unfit for use.

Water Supply.

Thirteen new wells have been sunk by private individuals during the year ; and the question of a public water supply for St. Margarets frequently discussed. In respect to this question the Council do not think it expedient to take any action, unless the private Company, who have undertaken the supply of water, fail to complete their works within the given time.

From the Inspector's report it appears that 33 complaints have been made by him during the year, 33 notices served, and 32 nuisances abated.

The bakehouses, slaughter-houses and cow-sheds have also been regularly visited.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **DOVER** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES. Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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Hougham	114	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	3	2	2

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1890. Dover Borough Isolation Hospital.

EAST ASHFORD RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—54,794 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—13,941.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 371, the deaths during the same period being 192. Upon an estimated population of 14,042, the birth-rate was equal to 26·4, and the death-rate to 13·6 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth-rate.
Death-rate.

Causes of
Death.

Of the various causes of death 46, including 10 from consumption, were referred to diseases of the lungs, 18 to heart disease, nine to whooping cough, nine to influenza, five to diphtheria, four to injuries, three to diarrhoea, two to erysipelas, one each to small-pox, measles, and membranous croup, and 93 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·35 per 1,000 of the population, and that from notifiable diseases to 0·64.

Ages at Death.

Of the total number of deaths 33 occurred at under one year of age, 18 at one and under five years, 10 at five and under 15 years, four at 15 and under 25, 37 at 25 and under 65, and 90 at 65 years and upwards.

Infant
Mortality.

The rate of the infant mortality was equal to 8·8 per cent of the children born during the year.

Notification
Act.

Under the Notification Act, 122 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 69 of which were referred to scarlet fever, 37 to diphtheria, seven to small-pox, five to erysipelas, two to membranous croup, one to enteric fever, and one to puerperal fever.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever, the most frequently notified, was of a mild form, not a single death resulting from this disease. The first case notified was contracted at Croydon; and the multiplication of cases resulted from school infection. Ashford New Town School, Ashford Baptist Sunday School, Willesboro' and Wye Schools being the chief centres from which the fever was spread. Influenza was associated with many of the cases, and some of them subsequently proved to be phases of this malady.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria was introduced into the District by children attending schools in Ashford; and also in one instance from London, in another case from Ramsgate, in another from Folkestone, and in one especially fatal outbreak a family became infected by relatives who had recently arrived from Gibraltar.

An outbreak of diphtheria had occurred amongst these relatives at Gibraltar, and resulted in the death of the mother, whose child, with a box of clothing, was subsequently brought to her aunt's house in the East Ashford District ; soon after this arrival and the opening of the box diphtheria broke out, resulting in the death of the aunt and her three children. The nurse also contracted the disease, as also some neighbours' children, but they recovered.

The above introductions constituted centres from which the disease spread to a limited extent, and were accompanied by a number of cases of sore throat without the typical signs of diphtheria.

Seven cases of small-pox were notified, one of which proved fatal.

Small-pox.

The origin of this malady arose from a farm servant, who, after visiting an infected house in Canterbury, was taken ill with what was diagnosed as chicken-pox. This man slept with his master, who died of small-pox. The second was this man's wife. The third case had visited No. 3, No. 4 was the Sanitary Inspector, No. 5 the husband of No. 3, No. 6 a modified case, and No. 7 the driver of the ambulance.

As no special hospital for small-pox exists in the District, the infectious hospital was appropriated for the isolation and treatment of this disease, with the result that cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria had to remain at home ; and to this cause the spread of the two last mentioned diseases could not be limited by isolation in hospital during its occupation by small-pox cases.

Action taken.

Re-vaccination was carried out in the families and neighbourhood of those first attacked, isolation in hospital adopted in all the cases, and although two officials unfortunately contracted the disease in the discharge of their duty, the disease was prevented from spreading beyond the seven cases referred to.

A special Hospital Committee was convened, at which further and more complete hospital provision was advocated ; the subject being also considered at a meeting of the Council, with adjournment of the question at issue.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 14 houses were reported as unfit for human occupation.

Reports made to the Council.

A poulterer's trade nuisance, where some 5,000 chickens, 350 geese and 200 ducks were being fed and prepared for market, was the subject of another report.

Reports were also made on faulty property at Hamstreet and Wye.

Twenty-five samples of water were analysed, 10 of which were found polluted, and so reported to the Council.

Water Supply.

The dangerous mode of distribution of water from the S.E.R. Company's main to many of the houses at Willesboro' was pointed out ; and the want of a proper supply to 16 houses at Brook, where the inhabitants have drawn their supply from a stream liable to periodical pollution, was also reported. The

former improper supply from the main at Willesboro' has been rectified ; but the houses at Brook are still imperfectly supplied, although a source of pure water could be obtained at the foot of the chalk downs, and conveyed by pipe through Brook Street for distribution, as adverted to in former reports.

**Sewerage
Works.**

The important sewerage system for South Willesborough has now been completed and over 400 houses already connected therewith. A public water supply for this neighbourhood, and hospital extension are the two next important matters requiring the consideration of the Council.

**Inspector's
Report.**

From the Inspector's report it appears that 122 nuisances were reported and 121 abated ; 18 pit privies converted into earth closets, 77 houses disinfected, and 45 cleansed and white-washed ; also that overcrowding in three houses was abated, and that the dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses and slaughter-houses have been regularly visited,

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **EAST ASHFORD** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Brabourne	124	25	14	8	3	29	45	Under 5. 5 upwds.	1	...	1</

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **EAST ASHFORD** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
					FEVERS.													FEVERS.										
					Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Brabourne (H)	7,924	...	212	Under 5 5 upwds.	1 2	5 33	4 23	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	120	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	11	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wye	5,897	...	159	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	3 5	1 23	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	13,941	14,042	371	Under 5 5 upwds.	110 659	5 32	1 1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. East Ashford Isolation Hospital, at Brabourne.

EASTRY RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—43,711 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—12,780.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 330, the deaths during the same period being 203. Upon an estimated population of 12,924, the birth-rate was equal to 25·5 and the death-rate, after correction for the Workhouse, to 13·9 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth-rate.
Death-rate.

Of the various causes of death, 40, including nine from consumption, were due to diseases of the lungs, 17 to heart disease, eight to injuries, seven to influenza, six to measles, two to diphtheria, two to whooping cough, two to diarrhoea, one to membranous croup, and 118 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

Causes of
Death.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 0·92 per 1,000 of the population, and that from notifiable diseases to 0·23.

Zymotic Death-
rate.

Of the total number of deaths 37 occurred at under one year of age, 22 at one and under five, nine at five and under 15, four at 15 and under 25, 49 at 25 and under 65, and 82 at 65 years and upwards.

Ages at Death.

Infant mortality was equal to 11·2 per cent. of the children born during the year.

Infant
Mortality.

Under the Notification Act, 57 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 25 of which were due to diphtheria, 16 to erysipelas, seven to enteric fever, four to scarlet fever, two to membranous croup, two to continued fever, and one to puerperal fever.

Notification
Act.

Diphtheria was the most constant of any of the zymotics notified, cropping up most frequently in that portion of the District which adjoins the Dover Rural, the latter District being infected from Easry District early in the year. Children from different parishes situated in both Council Districts attend the same school, and this school, having become infected, the assemblage of children from widely separated homes gave rise to broadcast germs; and thus many centres of infection became established. Further, the collection of infected children at festive or Sunday School gatherings in their own parishes or hamlets aided also in the diffusion of the disease. The continuance of the malady was due, first, to want of hospital accommodation for the isolation of the early cases; secondly, to protracted infectiveness in individual instances;

Diphtheria.

and thirdly, to the impregnation of some houses or premises with the seeds of the malady. As an illustration of its recrudescence, one outbreak appeared in a household shortly after the family removed to a dwelling where one of the previous occupants had suffered from a protracted attack of nasal diphtheria. This case had not been previously notified, and no disinfection of the house had been carried out before the family left. Opportunities are often afforded for tracing cases in the country which do not obtain in towns, and the following example shows that diphtheria may sometimes be communicated by an intermediate person not suffering from the malady. On the appearance of diphtheria in a family a baby was removed to its grandfather's house some mile distant, and was sent daily to be nursed by its mother at home. The infant did not contract the disease, but diphtheria broke out at the grandfather's in the person of a cousin who used to take charge of the child; the only source of infection being through the medium of the baby or nurse who conveyed the child backwards and forwards.

Enteric Fever. The outbreaks of enteric fever were, in half the cases, thought in the first instance to be influenza. The water consumed by the sufferers was pure in character, but, at three of the houses, sanitary defects were found on the premises invaded by the fever.

Scarlet Fever. Two of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in a family who had suffered in the previous year; and the two other cases notified were mother and daughter, the latter having been sent home ill from Dover.

Action taken. During the investigations made into the various outbreaks of disease, the causes were duly searched for, and such remedial and preventive measures adopted as were capable of being exercised, according to the respective circumstances under which they occurred.

Reports made to the Council. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, four houses were reported upon as unfit for human habitation, and proceedings adopted in respect to the same by the Council.

Reports were also made with respect to faulty property at Shatterling and Goodnestone; the sewage outfall at Waldershare; and defects at Ashley Schools.

Water Analysis. Nineteen samples of water were analysed, eight of which were found unfit for drinking purposes, and so reported to the Authority.

Sewerage Works. In consequence of continued complaints respecting the pollution of the Durlock, a special meeting was convened, and recommendations made for the treatment of the sewage effluent at Ash by irrigation on land after its passage through the precipitant and subsiding tanks. A Committee was appointed to visit several sewage farms, but up to the date of this report, although the principle has been affirmed, the works have not yet been executed.

The perfection of detail in sanitary improvements was also during the year urged, especially in relation to the ventilation of cesspools,

when this mode of dealing with sewage is adopted ; and also the necessity for public scavenging where the earth-closet system is introduced in villages and schools.

Public
Scavenging.

The appointment of a scavenger at Wingham has resulted in a much improved condition of the sanitary state of this village, and will, I believe, be as much appreciated by the inhabitants as the water supply, now happily provided, is although both measures when first advocated met with considerable opposition.

The provision of hospital accommodation, so often postponed, is I hope within more measurable distance than it has previously occupied, owing to the gradually increasing recognition, that no district is properly equipped without such means of isolation for infectious cases of sickness.

Hospital.

From the Inspector's report it appears that 58 nuisances were reported and abated during the year ; 39 privies converted into pail or earth closets ; 19 defects in drainage remedied ; 25 houses disinfected ; and overcrowding in three houses abated. The dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses and slaughter-houses have also been regularly inspected.

Inspector's
Report.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **EASTRY** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Deal (Rural)	...	17	4	2	...	1	5	5	Under 5. 5 upwds.	1</

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **EASTRY** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
					FEVERS.													FEVERS.										
					Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Under 5 5 upwds.	TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deal (Rural)	1,679	...	49	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eythorne	1,971	...	42	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sandwich (Rural)...	5,731	...	158	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	286	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	13	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wingham	3,113	...	81	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	3	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	12,780	12,924	330	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	4	22	2	...	7	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. No Hospital.

ELHAM RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—38,302 acres.

Population (Census 1891)—11,114.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 325, the deaths during the same period being 183.

Birth-rate.

Death-rate.

Upon an estimated population of 11,874, the birth-rate was equal to 27·3, and the death-rate (after correction for the Work-house) to 13·6 per 1,000 of the population.

Causes of Death

Of the various causes of death, 47 (including 16 from phthisis) were referred to diseases of the lungs, 21 to heart disease, nine to influenza, five to diarrhoea, five to injuries, three to enteric fever, two to diphtheria, two to measles, two to whooping cough, one to puerperal fever, and 86 to old age and other constitutional causes.

Zymotic Death-rate.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·26; and that from notifiable diseases to 0·4 per 1,000 of the population.

Ages at Death.

Of the total number of deaths, 33 occurred at under one year of age, 16 at one and under five years, nine at five and under 15, 16 at 15 and under 25, 51 at 25 and under 65, and 58 at 65 years and upwards.

Infant Mortality.

Infant mortality was equal to 10·1 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Notification Act

Under the Notification Act, 52 cases of sickness were reported, 31 of which were referred to scarlet fever, eight erysipelas, five small-pox, four diphtheria, and four enteric fever.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever, the most frequently notified disease, was mild in character, not a single death resulting during the year. Sixteen of the cases occurred in Sellinge parish, the spread of the malady there being due to the infection of the school by non-notified cases. A batch of six cases occurred at Uphill, the school becoming infected at the onset of outbreak, but early closure prevented further spread amongst the scholars.

Enteric Fever.

One of the sufferers from enteric fever was sent home ill from Southampton, and another from Woolwich.

Diphtheria.

Of the four cases of diphtheria one was an isolated instance of a very mild attack. Two were children who had been standing over a drain, watching its exposure after it had been blocked for two months, one of the children being rendered sick soon after

inhaling the effluvia liberated by the workmen engaged in removing the obstruction. The fourth case was that of a farmer who had been syringing the nose and throat of one of his horses suffering from glanders. This man had a very severe attack, with extensive detachment of diphtheritic membrane, but ultimately recovered under antitoxin treatment. The man lived at a farm situated in a remote country district, and there had been no exposure to any previous case of diphtheria in the human subject. A somewhat similar source was noted in the Bridge District in 1888.

The five cases of small-pox were due to introduction by a modified case from the Bridge District, the latter District having been infected from Canterbury. Two families, living in close intercourse, were thus invaded, and extension, from these cases appeared in a third dwelling about two miles distant.

Small-pox.

An unusual case of poisoning occurred in a family, from drinking soda water impregnated with copper. From the severe colic and vomiting which followed the use of this water, suspicion attached to the lead or antimony derived from the syphons, but analysis revealed that it was copper and not lead which the aerated water contained.

Copper Poison-
ing from Soda
Water.

Appeal to the manufacturer resulted in his finding a flaw in the pipe leading from the gas-holder to the pump. The gas-holder is made of copper, and the water in which it floats is charged with permanganate of potash for the purpose of purifying the carbonic acid gas during transit, and this water was found to contain a large percentage of copper.

With regard to the measures adopted on the various outbreaks of disease, school closure had to be resorted to for the arrest of scarlet fever ; and as two outbreaks occurred at dairies supplying neighbouring towns with milk, special precautions were taken for avoiding any distribution of the disease along with the milk supply.

Action taken
respecting out-
breaks of disease

On report of the outbreak of small-pox, one of the two houses first invaded was used for isolation purposes, and the other for the accommodation of those not attacked, who were kept at home, and from following their usual employment.

Vaccination and re-vaccination was resorted to, except in one instance, where the man absolutely refused to undergo the operation. This man, and an infant in whom the vaccination was unsuccessful, subsequently contracted the disease.

When the third house was invaded by a very virulent form of the malady the patient was retained in the house and the family accommodated in a good-sized hospital tent, until complete convalescence was established ; vaccination and re-vaccination being also resorted to. It is satisfactory to record that the preventive measures adopted proved successful in practice, and that the outbreak was kept within narrow bounds.

Reports made to
the Council.

Reports were made on the village of Saltwood, Sellinge schools, and the desirability of requiring rain-water guttering and down spouts for the prevention of dampness in cottage dwellings. An opportunity having occurred, by the generous offer of the owner, for acquiring the valuable spring of water at Lyminge, the District Council was advised to take advantage of this, and construct the necessary works for utilizing this supply for the neighbourhood, and lower down the valley.

Hospital.

It is satisfactory to record the completion of the Infectious Hospital, and its preparation for use, during the year.

Water Analysis.

Five samples of water were analysed, two of which were found unsafe for drinking purposes, and so reported upon.

Unhealthy
Dwellings.

Two houses were reported to be in an unwholesome condition, and put into an inhabitable condition.

Inspector's
Report.

From the Inspector's report it appears that 48 nuisances were reported, all of which were abated ; a considerable amount of time was occupied in dealing with the outbreaks of scarlet fever and small-pox, the schools being visited on 58 occasions ; and that the cowsheds, bakehouses and laundries were regularly inspected.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **ELHAM** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
																Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Elham	...	55	8	5	2	4	15	21	Under 5. 5 upwds.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **ELHAM** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Elham (H)	3,451	...	105	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	170	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Folkestone (Rural)	4,826	...	158	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hythe (Rural)	2,667	...	62	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	18	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	11,114	11,874	325	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. Elham Isolation Hospital.

HERNE BAY

URBAN COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—415 Acres.

Population (Census 1891)—3,829.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the Herne Bay Urban District was 87, the deaths during the same period being 62.

Upon an estimated population of 4,513, the birth-rate was equal to 19·2, and the corrected death-rate 14·6 per 1,000.

Of the various causes of death, 17 (including five from phthisis) were due to diseases of the lungs, 10 heart disease, four diarrhoea, two diphtheria, one enteric fever, one whooping-cough, one influenza, one injury, and 25 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·7; that from notifiable diseases being 0·6 per 1,000 of the population.

The ages at death were as follows:—Nine died at under one year of age, seven at one and under five years, three at five and under 15, three at 15 and under 25, 19 at 25 and under 65, and 21 at 65 and upwards.

Infant mortality was equal to 10·3 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Under the Notification Act 49 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 25 of which were referred to scarlet fever, 20 diphtheria, three enteric fever, and one erysipelas.

Of the 25 cases of scarlet fever, 12 occurred at the Franklyn Convalescent Home, eight at a private school, one at the Sea Le Convalescent Home; and, in respect to the remaining four, insanitary conditions existed on the premises where two of them occurred, whilst the other two were visitors, of whom no satisfactory history could be obtained in respect to the source of illness.

The 20 cases of diphtheria occurred under the following circumstances:—Five occurred at Franklyn Convalescent Home, one at the Burdett Home, two at a private school, five in one house where insanitary conditions existed, two were imported cases, in two instances no satisfactory history could be obtained; whilst in the remaining three, insanitary conditions existed on the premises where they occurred.

Birth-rate.

Death-rate.

Causes of Death.

Zymotic Death-rate.

Ages at Death.

Infant Mortality.

Notification Act

Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria.

Enteric Fever.

Of the three cases of enteric fever one was imported into a convalescent home, another appeared in a lodging-house where drain effluvia found access from a defective soil pipe, and the third was one of doubtful origin, although suspicion attached to ice consumption.

Erysipelas.

The sufferer from erysipelas resided at a dwelling where insanitary conditions were discovered on the premises.

Outbreaks of Disease in Convalescent Homes.

The frequent outbreaks of infectious sickness after arrivals of convalescents at Franklyn House show how liable such Homes are to the importation of disease, with the result of outbreaks amongst the inmates, and illustrate the necessity that exists for greater precautions being exercised at such institutions. I have had to recommend the closure of this establishment on more than one occasion on account of serious outbreaks of disease, whereby not only were the inmates placed in jeopardy, but also the inhabitants of Herne Bay. The serious outbreak of scarlet fever at a private school was possibly due to infection derived from the above-mentioned establishment, through use of the same laundry baskets. The entries in the reception book at the Home record convalescents from tonsillitis, relaxed throat, diphtheria, scarlet fever, dropsy after scarlet fever, etc., and, knowing the protracted infectiveness some of these diseases possess, it is not surprising to find outbursts of sickness at homes where such cases are received.

Hospital.

The isolation of cases was provided for during the year by partial use of the cottages in Sea Street, and by use of the Blean Hospital under a temporary arrangement.

Reports made to the Council.

The insanitary conditions met with during the investigations made into the various outbreaks were reported upon and dealt with by the Council.

Reports upon insanitary conditions at houses in Sea Street, White Horse Yard, William Street, East Cliffe, and tenements in Brunswick House were made to the Council.

House Drainage etc.

The frequent finding of defects in the sanitary conditions of dwellings led the Council to decide upon a systematic inspection being made by the Inspector; and, as requested, I drew up a form to be used during such inspection, and also advised the Council to insist upon the following general principles of sanitation in respect to the drainage of houses, viz. :—

- (a). The substitution of glazed stone ware pipes for the old brick drains.
- (b). The abolition of bell-traps.
- (c). The proper disconnection of the waste pipes from cisterns.
- (d). The efficient ventilation of soil-pipes to be obtained by carrying them up without any diminution of calibre in as perpendicular a line as possible, and with their summits at a safe distance from all windows and chimneys.
- (e). The proper ventilation of all closets by windows or other openings.

(f). Provision for the adequate flushing of closets by separate cisterns provided with discharge pipes of $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches internal diameter.

(g). All pipes and joints connected with the drainage system to be in a sound condition.

Other recommendations were made in respect to water supply, removal of dampness, and ventilation of the main sewer and branches at summits of the same.

The Inspector reports that 56 notices have been served to abate nuisances; the drainage of seven houses entirely re-constructed under his supervision; the 12-inch pipes in the culvert thoroughly repaired and more efficient ventilation provided; the William Street sewer ventilated by a shaft fixed at the side of the Town Hall; and proceedings taken for further ventilation of other sewers; the old brick drain at the rear of South Cottages removed, and new nine-inch drain provided at joint cost of owner and Council; and that the dairies, cow-sheds, slaughter-houses, bakehouses, and workshops have been regularly visited.

No proceedings before the magistrates have been found necessary in order to enforce the requirements of the Council.

**Inspector's
Report.**

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **HERNE BAY** Urban Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)		FEVERS.													TOTAL.									
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.		Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Herne Bay	62	9	7	3	3	19	21	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	3	1	...	1	5	16
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	20	46
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	62	9	7	3	3	19	21	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	3	1	...	1	5	16	
								Under 5.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	46

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **HERNE BAY** Urban Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
					FEVERS.													FEVERS.										
					Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Herne Bay	...	3,829	87	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	22	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	3,829	87	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	22	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. Blean Isolation Hospital, in Blean District; also Cottages at Sea Street.

HYTHE BOROUGH.

Area—2,620 Acres.

Population (Census 1891)—4,347.

During the year, ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District was 110, the deaths, during the same period, being 62.

Birth-rate.	Upon an estimated population of 4,419 the birth-rate was
Death-rate.	equal to 24·8, and the death-rate (after correction for the Work-house) to 14·7 per 1,000 of the population.
Causes of Death	Of the various causes of death, 14 (including four from phthisis) were due to diseases of the lungs, eight to heart disease, two to influenza, two to diarrhoea, one to enteric fever, one to whooping cough, and 34 to old age and various other constitutional causes.
Zymotic Death-rate.	The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 0·90, and from notifiable diseases to 0·22 per 1,000 of the population.
Ages at Death.	Of the total number of deaths 22 occurred at under one year of age, two at one and under five years, two at five and under 15, four at 15 and under 25, 14 at 25 and under 65, and 18 at 65 years and upwards.
Infant Mortality.	Infant mortality was equal to 20·0 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.
Notification Act.	Under the Notification Act, four cases of infectious sickness were reported, two of which were referred to enteric fever, one to scarlet fever, and one to puerperal fever.
Enteric Fever.	The first case of enteric fever notified during the year was contracted at Woolwich; and the other sufferer from this malady had, prior to his attack, been exposed to effluvia from slaughter-house garbage and defective drainage at his dwelling. The single
Scarlet Fever.	case of scarlet fever was that of a visitor who was ill on her arrival from London. With regard, therefore, to notifiable diseases originating in the Borough, Hythe was remarkably free last year.
Measles, Whooping-Cough, and Lung Disease.	Measles, whooping cough and lung diseases were prevalent, and infant mortality was high. The epidemic of whooping cough interfered considerably with school attendance.
Reports made to the Council.	Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, two houses were reported as unfit for human habitation.
	Two houses were also reported so overcrowded as to be dangerous to the health of the inhabitants thereof.

Arthur Villa and two adjoining houses were reported to be in an insanitary condition from want of drainage into the sewerage system of the Borough.

A report on pig-keeping within the Borough was also made to the Council.

In consequence of a suspicion that the milk supply from a certain dairy situated within the Borough was connected with a series of cases of enteric fever in an adjoining district, inquiry was made respecting the same ; when it was found that one cow had died, another was lying prostrate in the field unable to rise, and the majority of the herd of cows suffering from illness which the veterinary surgeon pronounced to be cow-pox. A special meeting of the Council was held, and the milk from the dairy in question prohibited until the veterinary surgeon pronounced the animals free from disease. The dairyman furnished me with a list of customers, and carried out implicitly the directions of the Council.

Outbreak of
disease amongst
Cows.

This outbreak impressed the Council with the need for more vigilant inspection and surveillance, and the bye-laws framed for this purpose are now waiting the approval of the Local Government Board.

New Bye-laws.

The necessity for an increased storage of water in order to provide for a constant supply throughout the year has been brought under the consideration of the Council.

Water Supply

The often postponed question of making some small provision for the isolation of infectious cases, to be ready in case of emergency, although again deferred, will, I trust, be soon revived, and some permanent building acquired.

Hospital
Provision.

The Inspector reports that he has served 27 notices for the abatement of nuisances, that he has visited regularly the dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, slaughter-houses and workshops ; and constructed 900 feet of new branch sewers during the year. No proceedings were instituted before the Justices, the notices of the Council being all duly complied with.

Inspector's
Report.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **HYTHE** Borough District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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Hythe Borough ...	62	22	2	2	4	14	18	Under 5. 5 upwds.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **HYTHE** Borough District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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Hythe Borough ...	4,347	4,419	110	Under 5 upwds. Under 5 upwds. Under 5 upwds. Under 5 upwds. Under 5 upwds. Under 5 upwds.	...	1	2	1

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. No Hospital.

THANET RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—21,635 Acres.

Population (Census, 1891)—9,466.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the District, was 230, the deaths, during the same period, being 204.

Birth-rate.

Death-Rate.

Upon an estimated population of 9,970, the birth-rate was equal to 23·0, and the death-rate (after correction for the Workhouse and Isolation Hospital), to 12·1 per 1,000 of the population,

Causes of Death

Of the various causes of death, 33 (including 10 from phthisis) were due to diseases of the lungs, 18 to heart disease, four to measles, four to influenza, three to injuries, two to diphtheria, two to diarrhoea, one to enteric fever, one to rheumatic fever, and 136 to old age, and various other constitutional causes.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The corrected death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·10, and that from notifiable zymotics to 0·30 per 1,000 of the population.

Ages at Death.

Of the total number of deaths, 35 occurred at under one year of age, 12 at one and under five, seven at five and under 15, three at 15 and under 25, 59 at 25 and under 65, and 88 at 65 years and upwards.

Infant
Mortality.

Infant mortality was equal to 15·2 per cent of the number of children born during the year.

Notification
Act.

Under the Notification Act, 37 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 19 of which were due to diphtheria 12 to enteric fever, four to erysipelas, and two to scarlet fever.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria, the most frequently notified, included a succession of five cases at the Workhouse, which were preceded, accompanied, and followed by obscure cases of sore throat. In conjunction with the Medical Officer of the Union, a complete investigation was made into the cause of the outbreak, and numerous sanitary defects discovered in connection with the drainage and sewage disposal of the House and a report thereon made to the Guardians. The other cases were for the most part scattered instances occurring under different circumstances. Two were visitors ill on arrival in the district. Another outbreak occurred in a family of visitors who had been down three weeks from London before two of them suffered from tonsillitis, and a third from diphtheria, the first being taken

ill four days after the arrival of a brother convalescent from diphtheria, who with another convalescent had been detained at home until considered free from the power of imparting infection.

Two cases occurred at a house when defective drainage existed ; and two at another house, damp and unwholesome in condition, and where the sewage had been soaking into the foundations for 18 months, during which period the drain had been blocked. A cat in this house was seriously ill with symptoms allied to diphtheria in the human subject, membrane being freely coughed up by this animal, and one of the sufferers prior to his attack had played with and kissed the animal, although warned by the father of the child not to nurse it.

Three of the cases of enteric fever were contracted out of the district, and seven occurred at Garlinge ; the multiple cases here being due to contraction from previous cases, in the same houses or families. Prior to the outbreak of enteric fever an infectious form of eczema had been prevalent in the locality. Enteric Fever.

Of the two cases of scarlet fever one was taken ill two days after arrival in the district ; and the other was a boy recently returned from home to a private school. Scarlet Fever.

Reports were made on the workhouse, and on property at Birchington and Garlinge. Two houses were reported unfit for human habitation, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act ; and one house as being so overcrowded as to be dangerous to the health of the occupants thereof. Reports made to the Council.

The question of providing a sewerage system for Birchington, either alone or in conjunction with Westgate, was brought forward, but in deference to the wishes of the Parish Council, a system of earth-closets and public scavenging has been determined upon, in order to avoid the cost of sewerage works. Sewerage Works.

Special investigations have been made into the character of the public and private water supplies in the District, and 43 wells have been analysed, the water in 11 samples being found unsafe for drinking purposes ; in 28 other samples being more or less contaminated, rendering the water suspicious in character ; whilst in four samples the water was pure and suitable for drinking purposes. Water Analysis.

From the Inspector's report it appears that only eight complaints were received from the inhabitants, but 211 nuisances of various kinds were abated after notice was served in each case upon the responsible persons. The bakehouses, dairies, cowsheds and slaughter-houses were also regularly inspected. Inspector's Report.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **THANET** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	FEVERS.																					
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Margate (Rural) ...	30	10	1	...	...	11	8	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	11
Minster ...	69	16	5	4	1	21	22	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	19
Workhouse ...	99	6	6	2	2	25	58	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	48
Ramsgate (Rural)...	6	3	...	1	...	2	...	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
						2	...	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
								Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	204	35	12	7	3	59	88	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	34	47
									...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	18	4	2	...	...	102	157

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the **THANET** Rural Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Estimated to middle of 1895.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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Margate (Rural) ...	2,950	...	60	Under 5 5 upwds.	4	6</

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1890. Thanet Joint Hospital in Ramsgate Borough.

WEST ASHFORD RURAL COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Area—39,494 Acres.

Population—(Census 1891) 8,204.

During the year ending December 31st, 1895, the number of births registered in the district was 205, the deaths during the same period being 130.

Birth-rate.

Death-rate.

Upon an estimated population of 8,165, the birth-rate was equal to 25·1, and the death-rate (after correction for the Work-house) to 14·5 per 1,000 of the population.

Causes of Death

Of the various causes of death 24 (including three from phthisis) were referred to diseases of the lungs, 13 to heart disease, four to diarrhoea, three to diphtheria, three to whooping-cough, two to injuries, two to influenza, and 79 to old age and various other constitutional causes.

Zymotic Death-rate.

The death-rate from the chief zymotics was equal to 1·22, and that from notifiable diseases to 0·36 per 1,000 of the population.

Ages at Death.

The ages at death were as follow:—26 occurred at under one year of age, 13 at one and under five years, five at five and under 15, four at 15 and under 25, 22 at 25 and under 65, and 60 at 65 years and upwards.

Infant Mortality.

Infant mortality was equal to 12·6 per cent. of the number of children born during the year.

Notification Act

Under the Notification Act, 62 cases of infectious sickness were reported, 26 of which were referred to diphtheria, 20 to scarlet fever, 12 to enteric fever, and four to erysipelas.

Diphtheria.

The first ten cases of diphtheria notified in 1895 occurred under diverse circumstances, in respect to locality and community of intercourse, food, and water supplies. The most noticeable features in their history were the fact of the existence of influenza and sore throats in the localities where they arose, and, with one exception, the marked insanitary conditions on the premises where they occurred. The other instances consisted of a series of cases in one parish, preceded and accompanied by an infectious form of sore throat, whereby the school became infected. The epidemic was then recognised as diphtheria, on account of the more severe type and characteristic features of the disease. One case reported as erysipelas occurred after exposure to diphtheria, and a nurse who

attended to the said erysipelas case subsequently developed diphtheria.

Twelve of the cases of scarlet fever occurred at Charing Heath, the first sufferer being a servant sent home ill with the disease from a vicarage in the Faversham Rural District ; from which source the school children became unfortunately infected. The other eight were scattered cases, of a very mild type, and associated with influenza ; in one instance the certificate was withdrawn, the symptoms after notification having no resemblance to scarlet fever, but proved to be a typical case of influenza. **Scarlet Fever.**

Ten of the cases of enteric fever occurred at Bethersden, where the water supply has so often been reported upon, and where I found excremental nuisances of the worst type existent on and close to premises where the fever prevailed. **Enteric Fever.**

A special report was made concerning this outbreak, and the defects in respect to excrement disposal and water supply pointed out to the Council, with the result of action being taken thereon. During the investigations made into the various other outbreaks of disease, insanitary conditions were found in many instances, and so reported to the Council. **Reports made to the Council.**

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, one house was reported upon as unfit for human habitation ; and under the Public Health Act, various premises in Charing were the subject of a special report. **Unhealthy Dwellings.**

Two overcrowded houses were certified as dangerous to the occupants of the same.

Six samples of water were analysed, two of which were reported as unsafe for drinking purposes. **Water Supply,**

The supply of water has in many places, where it was obviously liable to pollution, been improved by the construction of new wells, and of filtering cisterns for rain water. A water main has also been laid to the houses at Chilmington Green from the spring at the foot of the Kentish rag escarpment. The necessity of a public supply of water for Charing and the lower parts of Pluckley parish has also been brought under the consideration of the Council, who are now giving attention to the matter.

From the Inspector's Report it appears that 388 nuisances of various kinds were abated ; in one instance only was it necessary to apply for a Magistrates' Order to enforce the notices issued by the Council. **Inspector's Report.**

The cow-sheds, dairies, bake-houses, slaughter-houses, and hop-pickers' huts were regularly visited and improved in many details, after due notice to the owners of same.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the **WEST ASHFORD** Rural Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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Cale Hill	...	68	16	6	3	1	13	29	Under 5. 5 upwds.	1</

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Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in the District since January, 1891. West Ashford Isolation Hospital at Cale Hill.

